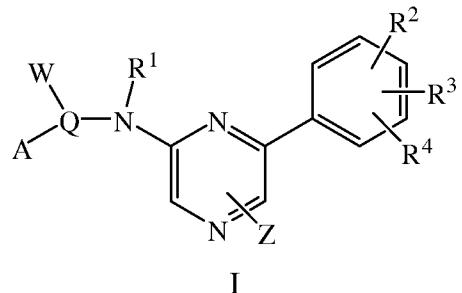


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A compound of the formula

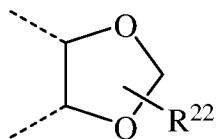


or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs, salts or stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

R¹ is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylNR⁵R⁶, C₁₋₆ alkylNR⁵COR⁶, C₁₋₆ alkylNR⁵SO₂R⁶, C₁₋₆ alkylCO₂R⁵, C₁₋₆ alkylCONR⁵R⁶, where R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, aryl, hetaryl, C₁₋₄ alkylaryl, C₁₋₄ alkylhetaryl or may be joined to form a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing an atom selected from O, S, NR⁷ and R⁷ is selected from H, C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R², R³ and R⁴ are each independently H, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, OH, OC₁₋₄ alkyl, CF₃, OCF₃, CN, C₁₋₄ alkylNR⁸R⁹, OC₁₋₄ alkylNR⁸R⁹, OCONR⁸R⁹, NR⁸R⁹, NR⁸COR⁹, NR¹⁰CONR⁸R⁹, NR⁸SO₂R⁹, COOR⁸, CONR⁸R⁹; and R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl cycloalkyl, or may be joined to form a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing an atom selected from O, S, NR¹¹; wherein R¹¹ is H, C₁₋₁₁ alkyl or CF₃;

alternatively, two of R², R³ and R⁴, when located on adjacent carbon atoms, may be joined to form the ring system



where R²² is H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or CF₃;

~~Q and W are both absent or Q is C₁₋₄ alkylene when W is present;~~

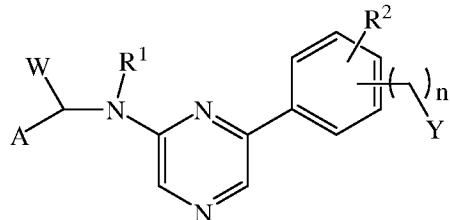
W is selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl; where C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₂₋₆ alkenyl may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄ alkyl, OH, OC₁₋₄ alkyl, NR¹⁵R¹⁶; and R¹⁵, and R¹⁶ are each independently H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl cycloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl cyclohetalkyl, aryl, hetaryl, or may be joined to form a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing an atom selected from O, S, NR¹⁷ and R¹⁷ is selected from H, C₁₋₄ alkyl;

A is aryl, or hetaryl each optionally substituted with 0-3 substituents independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, CF₃, aryl, hetaryl, OCF₃, OC₁₋₄ alkyl, OC₂₋₅ alkylNR¹⁸R¹⁹, Oaryl, Ohetaryl, CO₂R¹⁸, CONR¹⁸R¹⁹, NR¹⁸R¹⁹, C₁₋₄ alkylNR¹⁸R¹⁹, NR²⁰C₁₋₄ alkylNR¹⁸R¹⁹, NR¹⁸COR¹⁹, NR²⁰CONR¹⁸R¹⁹, NR¹⁸SO₂R¹⁹; and R¹⁸, R¹⁹ are each independently H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl cyclohetalkyl, aryl, hetaryl, C₁₋₄ alkyl aryl, C₁₋₄ alkyl hetaryl, or may be joined to form a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing an atom selected from O, S, NR²¹; and R²⁰ is selected from H, C₁₋₄ alkyl; and R²¹ is selected from H, C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

Z is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl,

wherein said prodrugs are esters of a free carboxyl or hydroxyl group or amides of a free amino group.

2. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 of formula II:



II

or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs, salts or stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

R¹ is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylNR⁵R⁶, where R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or may be joined to form a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing an atom selected from O, S, NR⁷ and R⁷ is selected from H, C₁₋₄ alkyl;

A is as defined in claim 1;

R² is 0-2 substituents independently selected from halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, OH, OC₁₋₄ alkyl, CF₃, OCF₃, CN, C₁₋₄ alkylNR⁸R⁹, OC₁₋₄ alkylNR⁸R⁹, CO₂R⁸, CONR⁸R⁹, NR⁸R⁹, NR⁸COR⁹, NR¹⁰CONR⁸R⁹, NR⁸SO₂R⁹; and R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently H, C₁₋₄ alkyl;

Y is H, OH, NR¹²R¹³; and R¹², and R¹³ are each independently H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or may be joined to form a 3-6 membered ring optionally containing an atom selected from O, S, NR¹⁴ and R¹⁴ is selected from H, C₁₋₄ alkyl;

n = 0-4;

W and prodrug are as defined in claim 1.

3. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein W is C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylamino which is a mixture of the compound that possesses S chirality at the chiral carbon bearing W, and the compound that possesses R chirality at said carbon.

4. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 3 wherein the mixture comprises at least 70% of the compound that possesses S chirality at said carbon.

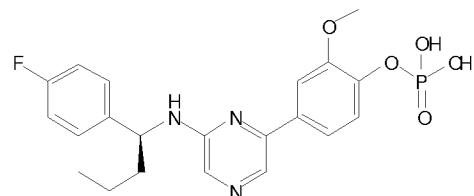
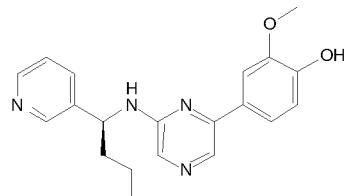
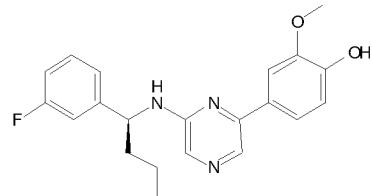
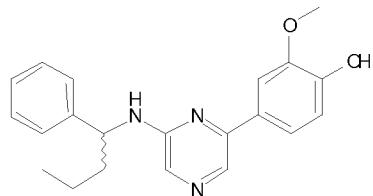
5. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 4 wherein the compound comprises at least 80% of the compound that possesses S chirality at said carbon.

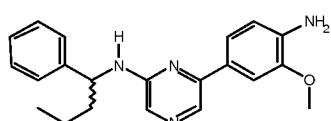
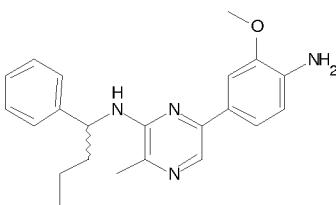
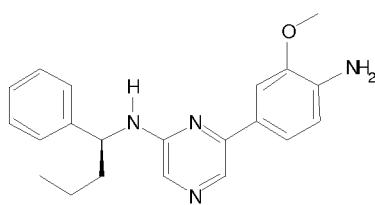
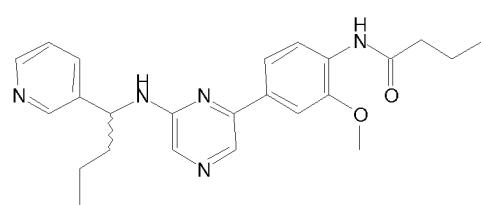
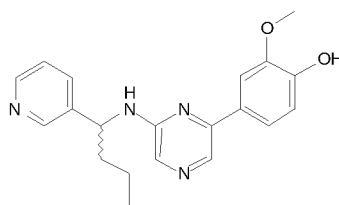
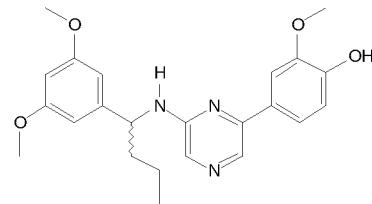
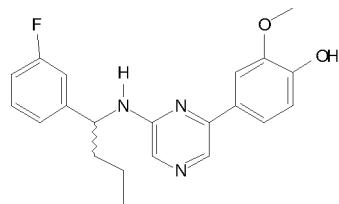
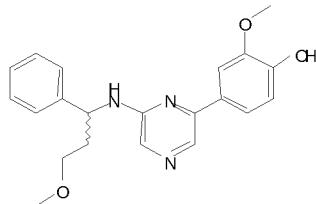
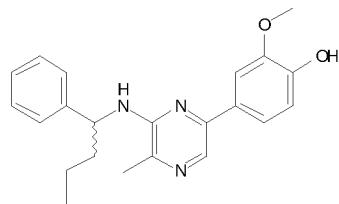
6. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 4 wherein the compound comprises at least 90% of the compound that possesses S chirality at said carbon.

7. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 4 wherein the compound comprises at least 95% of the compound that possesses S chirality at said carbon.

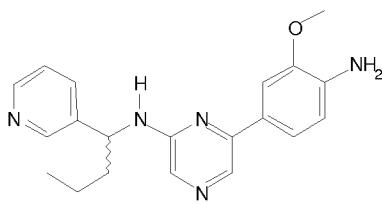
8. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 4 wherein the compound comprises at least 99% of the compound that possesses S chirality at said carbon.

9. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:





and



and the salts and stereoisomers thereof.

10. (previously presented): A composition comprising a carrier and at least one compound of claim 1.

11. (withdrawn): A method of treating a hyperproliferation-related disease state in a subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof.

12. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 11 wherein the hyperproliferation-related disease state is treatable by the modulation of microtubule polymerisation.

13. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 11 wherein the hyperproliferation-related disease state is selected from the group consisting of:

Atopy, such as Allergic Asthma, Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema), and Allergic Rhinitis; Cell Mediated Hypersensitivity, such as Allergic Contact Dermatitis and Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis; Rheumatic Diseases, such as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Rheumatoid Arthritis, Juvenile Arthritis, Sjögren's Syndrome, Scleroderma, Polymyositis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Psoriatic Arthritis; Other autoimmune diseases such as Type I diabetes, autoimmune thyroid disorders, and Alzheimer's disease; Viral Diseases, such as Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, HTLV 1, Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV), Human Papilloma Virus (HPV); Cancer, such as fibrosarcoma, myxosarcoma, liposarcoma, chondrosarcoma, osteogenic sarcoma, chordoma, angiosarcoma, endotheliosarcoma, lymphangiosarcoma, lymphangioendotheliosarcoma, synovioma, mesothelioma, Ewing's tumor, leiomyosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, colon carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, sweat gland carcinoma, sebaceous gland carcinoma, papillary carcinoma, papillary adenocarcinomas, cystadenocarcinoma, medullary carcinoma, bronchogenic carcinoma, renal cell carcinoma, hepatoma, bile duct carcinoma, choriocarcinoma, seminoma, embryonal carcinoma, Wilms' tumor, cervical cancer, testicular tumor, lung carcinoma, small cell lung carcinoma, bladder carcinoma, epithelial carcinoma, glioma, astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, craniopharyngioma, ependymoma, pinealoma, hemangioblastoma, acoustic neuroma, oligodendrogloma, meningioma, melanoma, neuroblastoma, and retinoblastoma, and carcinomas forming from tissue of the breast, prostate, kidney, bladder or colon, and neoplastic disorders arising in adipose tissue, such as adipose cell tumors, e.g., lipomas, fibrolipomas, lipoblastomas, lipomatosis, hibernomas, hemangiomas and/or liposarcomas; infectious diseases such as viral,

malarial and bacterial infections; vascular restenosis; inflammatory diseases, such as autoimmune diseases, glomerular nephritis myocardial infarction and psoriasis.

14. (canceled)

15. (withdrawn): A method of modulating microtubule polymerisation in a cell which method comprises administering a compound according to claim 1.

16. (withdrawn): A method of modulating microtubule polymerisation in a cell which method comprises administering a compound according to claim 2.

17. (withdrawn): A method of treating a hyperproliferation-related disease state in a subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of claim 2 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof.